(b) whether it is also a fact that a search committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary had recommended a few names for appointment of CMD;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recommendation has not been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The post of full time CMD, ITDC has been lying vacant since 01.10.1997 and it has been held as an additional charge by other officers. The reasons for this vacancy were on account of a court case filled by the last regular appointee as well as the rejection by the Government of the panels recommended by the Search Committee set up subsequently.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommended panel, consisting of two candidates, were not found suitable.

Tourist Inflow

1487. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourist inflows to India have registered a 15 per cent growth in the first nine months of 2005;

(b) if so, the details of such tourist inflows available with Government from different countries; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned for the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the estimates prepared by Ministry of Tourism, foreign tourist arrivals to India during January-September, 2005 have been about 2.64 million compared to 2.29 million during the same period last year, showing a growth of 15.2%.

(b) Nationality-wise details of foreign tourist arrivals to India are available only for the first five months of the year 2005. Details of arrivals

for the top ten countries are as follows:

Country	Tourist Arrivals to India (Jan-May 2005)
U.K.	2,92,942
U.S.A.	2,23,407
Bangladesh	2,00,060
Canada	65,268
France	60,011
Germany	56,470
Sri Lanka	56,352
Japan	40,955
Malaysia	37,433
Australia	34,293

(c) The estimate foreign exchange earnings from tourism for the period January-September, 2005 were about Rs. 18,380 crore compared to Rs. 15,244 crore during the same period of the year 2004.

Ongoing Tourism Projects in U.P.

†1488. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress of the ongoing tourism projects particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the actual and financial targets fixed during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any new proposals to Central Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.